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G O V E R N O R ' S O F F I C E

**WILSON REITERATES CALL FOR RESOLUTION OF CURRENT PHASE  
OF THE BAY-DELTA PROJECT BY YEAR'S END**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 16, 1998

**CONTACT:** Sean Walsh

Ron Low

(916) 445-4571

**SACRAMENTO** – Joining members of the Legislature, agricultural, business, environmental, urban, and water groups, Governor Pete Wilson today continued his call for all parties to continue working toward the completion of the current phase of the Bay-Delta Project by the end of 1998.

"Two months ago, in my State of the State Address, I spoke of the need to invest in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy – to provide California with all the infrastructure needed for job growth, greater prosperity, and an assured quality of life," Wilson said. "Central to that is the investment in, and the implementation of a comprehensive plan for California's water future."

Since the signing of the Bay-Delta Accord in December 1994, an unprecedented coalition of state and federal agencies, together with concerned stakeholders, has worked tirelessly to develop a long-term 'fix' that suits California's economic and environmental needs. This morning, it's my pleasure to announce an important step forward in reaching this goal of concluding the current phase of the Bay-Delta Project by year's end."

Today, the CALFED Bay-Delta Project released three alternatives to "fix" the Bay-Delta. The preferred alternative will be selected later this year after a series of statewide hearings and workshops are held to discuss the alternatives.

The Bay-Delta supplies the drinking water for more than 22 million Californians and is a key component in the state's \$24 billion farm industry and is home to the largest estuary on the west coasts of North and South America, containing plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.

In addition to outlining the three alternatives, the 3,500 page report also seeks to address the reliability of water supply, water-use efficiency, levee integrity, ecosystem restoration, water-marketing, and watershed protection.

"The report contains not just common elements but basic elements to any sustainable solution," Wilson said. "Now that we have the answers before us, I suggest the time has come to speed up our efforts. For we still have plenty of work ahead if we are to meet a deadline by year's end."

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"With so much at stake for the future of California it is imperative that we continue the CALFED process which in 1994 began as part of an effort to end our state's water wars," said Secretary of State Bill Jones, who has been part of the Bay-Delta discussions.

Three years ago, California and the federal government signed the historic Bay-Delta Accord to establish coordinated management of water projects between the state and federal agencies - CALFED.

In 1992, the Governor announced California's first comprehensive water policy plan in over 25 years. The framework was designed to bring an end to decades-long water wars that have resulted in polarization and paralysis among urban, agricultural and environmental sectors.

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- For copies of the CALFED Bay-Delta Report, contact (916) 654-7137.